

### Claims

1. Device for withdrawing samples of liquid samples for analytical elements in which the sample is transported in a capillary-active channel (3) from the sampling site to the determination site and in which the capillary-active channel (3) is essentially formed by a carrier (1), a cover (7) and optionally a intermediate layer (9) which lies between a second cover (7) and carrier (1), wherein a notch (5) is located in one of the surfaces forming the channel capable of capillary liquid transport (3) at the edge of the analytical element forming the sample application opening (4) so that one side of the edge of the test element forming the sample application opening (4) is at least partially discontinuous and the surface opposite to the notch (5) is exposed.

Sub A.1

Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least two notches are located next to one another.

Sub A.2

Device as claimed in claim 1, wherein notches are staggered on opposite sides.

Sub A.14

Device as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 3, wherein at least one of the surfaces forming the inner surface of the channel capable of capillary liquid transport is hydrophilized.

5. Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the exposed surface opposite to the notch is hydrophilized.

6. ~~Device as claimed in claims 4 or 5, wherein the hydrophilization is achieved by use of a hydrophilic material or by coating a less hydrophilic material with a hydrophilic layer.~~

SUB A2

~~Device as claimed in claim 6, wherein a layer of oxidized aluminium is used for the hydrophilization.~~

8. ~~Process for withdrawing a liquid sample into an analytical element with the aid of a device as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 7, wherein the liquid sample is contacted with the analytical element at the edge of the sample application opening broken by the notch and transported by capillary forces into the channel capable of capillary liquid transport.~~

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